United Nations A/RES/72/129

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.21 and A/72/L.21/Add.1)*]

72/129. Moderation

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 39/11 of 12 November 1984, 53/243 A and B of 13 September 1999, 64/14 of 10 November 2009, 67/173 of 20 December 2012, 69/140 of 15 December 2014, 70/109 of 10 December 2015 and 71/249 of 22 December 2016,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) of 24 May 2017, in which the Council welcomed the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives[1] and stressed, inter alia, that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that all measures taken by Member States to counter terrorism, including to counter terrorist narratives, must comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Recognizing that moderation is an important value and approach to countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism and to promoting dialogue, mutual respect and understanding,

[1] S/2017/375, annex.

Please recycle

Acknowledging that the approach of moderation could reinforce the advancement of the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, development and human rights,

Recognizing the importance of inclusion, mutual respect, tolerance and understanding, of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

Welcoming the efforts and relevant initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting moderation and fostering greater inclusion, respect for diversity, understanding, tolerance and cooperation among peoples of different cultures, religions and beliefs,

1. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as an approach within societies for countering extremism in all its aspects and for further contributing to the promotion of dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;

2. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to promote moderation as a value that promotes peace, security and development;

3. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the Global Movement of Moderates initiative as a common platform to amplify the voices of moderation over those of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism;

4. *Calls upon* States Members of the United Nations to undertake initiatives to promote moderation through such activities as outreach programmes and cross-cultural dialogue and to promote the value of moderation, including non-violence, mutual respect and understanding, through education, recalls in this regard the importance of human rights education and training in contributing to the promotion, protection and effective realization of human rights, and encourages discourse and the sharing of best practices to amplify the voices of moderates and allow them to prevail;

5. *Decides* to proclaim 2019 the International Year of Moderation in an effort to amplify the voices of moderation through the promotion of dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to facilitate the observance of the International Year of Moderation in collaboration with other relevant organizations, bearing in mind that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

68th plenary meeting
8 December 2017

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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.26 and A/72/L.26/Add.1)*]

72/130. International Day of Living Together in Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,[1] which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolution 71/252 of 23 December 2016, adopted under its agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

Recalling also its resolution 70/109 of 10 December 2015, entitled "A world against violence and violent extremism", and resolution 71/249 of 22 December 2016, entitled "Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace",

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

[1] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

Please recycle

Reaffirming also the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] and General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Acknowledging that living together in peace is accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way,

Recognizing the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing dialogue and negotiation over confrontation and of working together,

Acknowledging the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based and cultural organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on intercultural dialogue, as well as their activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence,

Acknowledging the important role of civil society, including academia and volunteer groups, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encouraging support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing a culture of peace, as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace,

1. *Declares* 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace;

2. *Underlines* that the International Day of Living Together in Peace constitutes a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity, and to express its attachment to the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony;

3. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Living Together in Peace in accordance with the culture and other appropriate circumstances or customs of their local, national and regional communities, including through education and public awareness-raising activities;

4. *Invites* all Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, faith leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

[2] Resolution 55/2.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to facilitate the observance of the International Day of Living Together in Peace, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67;

7. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

68th plenary meeting
8 December 2017

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.22 and A/72/L.22/Add.1)*]

72/131. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling all relevant resolutions on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, including its resolution 71/129 of 8 December 2016, as well as Security Council resolutions on the protection of humanitarian personnel, including resolution 2175 (2014) of 29 August 2014, and relevant statements by the President of the Council,

Recalling also all Security Council resolutions and presidential statements and reports of the Secretary-General to the Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including resolution 2286 (2016) of 3 May 2016,

Reaffirming the principles, rules and relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as all relevant treaties,[1] and the need to further promote and ensure respect thereof,

[1] These include, notably, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 8 December 2005, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 8 June 1977, and Amended Protocol II of 3 May 1996 to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 10 October 1980, as applicable.

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Please recycle

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[2] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977,[3] and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and urging all such parties to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure respect for and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Recalling also the specific obligations, under international humanitarian law, to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required,

Deeply concerned by the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments which respect the internationally agreed principles on the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, while expressing concern over the lack of respect for these principles in some areas,

Noting the fact that the number of States parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[4] which entered into force on 15 January 1999, has reached 93, mindful of the need to promote the universality of the Convention, and welcoming the entry into force on 19 August 2010 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[5] which expands the scope of legal protection under the Convention,

Expressing deep concern at the complex and dynamic security environment, marked by the diverse and multifaceted threats and significant security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as they operate in increasingly high-risk environments, and the increase in the number of direct attacks against their vehicles and United Nations premises,

Deeply concerned about the particular vulnerability of locally recruited humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to safety and security-related incidents, including assault, arrest and detention, acts of violence, road traffic accidents and abduction, and concerned that 90 per cent of United Nations personnel killed in 2016 were locally recruited,[6]

Expressing deep concern at the exposure of female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to certain forms of crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, including sexual violence and other forms of violence

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[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[4] Ibid., vol. 2051, No. 35457.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2689, No. 35457.

[6] A/72/490, para. 27.

against women, and equally concerned at the steady rise in the number of reported sexual assaults against female United Nations personnel,

Expressing deep concern also that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel is a factor that severely restricts the provision of assistance and protection to populations in need, and commending the commitment of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to stay and deliver effectively the most critical programmes even in dangerous environments,

Stressing the need to uphold the respect and protection which the flag of the United Nations, and the nature of humanitarian work, should command and ensure, and stressing the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions,

Noting that medical personnel, and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, in an armed conflict situation continue to be under a duty to provide competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity, and always to bear in mind human life and to act in the patient's best interest, stressing the need to uphold their respective professional codes of ethics, and further noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

Commending the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, especially national and locally recruited personnel, and including those serving with national and international non-governmental organizations in the field, often at great personal risk,

Commending also the courage and commitment of those who take part in peace operations, including peacekeeping operations,[7] often at great personal risk, especially national and locally recruited personnel,

Noting with concern the evolving threats that United Nations personnel face when deployed and that, in 2016, 1,381 persons were affected by safety and security incidents, with 21 fatalities, of which 10 resulted from acts of violence, namely, crime, acts of terrorism and armed conflict, 163 injuries, of which 70 resulted from acts of violence, 7 abductions, 102 arrests and detentions and 231 reported cases of intimidation and harassment,[8] and noting that these figures do not include United Nations personnel who are not part of the United Nations security management system, such as locally recruited area staff of UNRWA, of whom 4 were killed, 10 were injured, 26 were arrested and detained and 77 reported cases of intimidation and harassment in 2016,[9]

Strongly condemning all acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel, expressing profound regret at the deaths, injuries and abductions resulting from these attacks, noting with concern that there were 158 recorded attacks against humanitarian personnel in 2016, resulting in at least 101

[7] The safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers is specifically addressed in the annual report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/71/19)). Except where otherwise specified, the present resolution focuses only on the safety and security of civilian United Nations and associated personnel falling under the United Nations security management system under the responsibility of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat.

[8] See A/72/490, annexes I and III.

[9] Ibid., annex V.

personnel killed, 98 injured and 89 abducted,[10] and noting with concern that casualties continue to take a heavier toll on personnel of non-governmental organizations than on United Nations personnel,[11]

Strongly condemning also all acts of violence, attacks and threats against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and the prevailing impunity for violations and abuses committed against such personnel, which in turn may contribute to the recurrence of those acts, and deploring the long-term consequences of such acts for the population and health-care systems of the countries concerned, and in this regard welcoming efforts by States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness of and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

Noting the decrease from previous years in United Nations casualties resulting from violent attacks or other safety-related incidents, which is a positive development despite a high rate of attacks and continued insecurity, and in this regard noting with appreciation all the measures taken to enhance the performance of the United Nations security management system,

Expressing profound regret at the deaths, illnesses and other adverse consequences affecting humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel as a result of public health hazards, and stressing the need for a conducive environment, appropriate equipment and resilient public health systems, and the urgency of preparedness,

Expressing deep concern at the deep and long-lasting impacts of acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Strongly condemning acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault and all forms of violence committed in particular against women and children, and intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention, to which those participating in humanitarian operations are exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of property of humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel,

Affirming the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and against their premises or assets do not operate with impunity, that such attacks are investigated promptly and effectively and that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict, as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[12] and noting the role that the Court can

[10] See Aid Worker Security Report 2017.

[11] These data are based entirely on voluntary reporting to the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat (see A/72/490, annex IV). The personnel of non-governmental organizations are not covered by the United Nations security management system.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations and associated personnel, including locally recruited staff, which constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, and mindful of the need to promote and enhance security consciousness within the organizational culture of the United Nations and a culture of accountability at all levels, as well as to continue to promote awareness of and sensitivity to national and local cultures and laws,

Gravely concerned at the large number of accidents and resulting casualties among United Nations and associated personnel, and conscious of the importance of road and aviation safety in ensuring the continuity of United Nations operations and preventing casualties among civilians and United Nations and associated personnel, and in this regard regretting the loss of civilian life as a result of such incidents,

Stressing that acceptance of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel by the host Governments, local authorities, local communities, populations and other parties as appropriate crucially contributes to their safety and security,

Noting the importance of reinforcing close collaboration between the United Nations and the host country on contingency planning, information exchange and risk assessment in the context of good mutual cooperation on issues relating to the security of United Nations and associated personnel, as well as the importance of coordinating prevention and mitigation measures and managing security in crisis situations,

Noting also that, in order to remain fit for purpose and to support the effective and principled delivery of humanitarian assistance, the United Nations security management system needs to evolve in response to the challenging global security environment, requiring, inter alia, an effective management structure, adequate and predictable resources and the timely deployment of security personnel with appropriate skills and field experience and of the equipment necessary for the performance of their duties, including vehicles and telecommunications equipment, which have an essential role in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Urges* all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refugee law as applicable, related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;

3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, acts of terrorism and attacks on humanitarian convoys, and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;

4. *Strongly urges* all States to take the measures necessary to ensure the safety and security of national and international humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;

[11] A/72/490.

5. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow those personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

6. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments;

7. *Also calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[12]

8. *Further calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[7] and urges States parties to put in place appropriate national legislation, as necessary, to enable its effective implementation;

9. *Calls upon* all States, all parties involved in armed conflict and all humanitarian actors to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution of female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in humanitarian and United Nations operations, expresses concern that these personnel may be more exposed to certain forms of violence, including sexual violence, crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to analyse the different forms of violence, including sexual violence, crime, acts of intimidation and harassment to which women and men are differently exposed, and also strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to choose appropriate and gender-sensitive approaches for their safety and security while allowing them to fulfil their duties, and to ensure that female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are meaningfully included in decisions related to their safety and security, and that all reports of sexual violence against humanitarian workers are thoroughly investigated and the alleged perpetrators brought to justice, in accordance with applicable laws;

11. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence, attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, also condemns attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a peacekeeping mission[7] in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as long as they are entitled to protection from attack under international humanitarian law, and reaffirms the need to prosecute, penalize and punish those responsible for such acts;

12. *Stresses* the importance of continued close coordination and consultation with host Governments on the functioning of the security risk management process and related tools, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to consult with the host Governments;

13. *Also stresses* the importance of ensuring that the security and safety of humanitarian and United Nations personnel is consistently and integrally considered in the planning for humanitarian action;

14. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including as provided for under the Geneva

Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[14] in order to respect and protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel;

15. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations, as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, urges States and all parties to armed conflict to develop and integrate effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and strongly urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, to take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims;

16. *Strongly urges* all States to take stronger action to ensure that crimes against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and personnel involved in a peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter as long as they are entitled to protection from attack under international humanitarian law, do not remain unpunished and are investigated fully and effectively, and affirms the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of any such acts committed on their territory do not operate with impunity, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

17. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel so as to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained and to ensure their right to legal counsel, and urges States to take the measures necessary to ensure the speedy release of those who have been arrested or detained in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

18. *Calls upon* all parties involved in armed conflict not to abduct, take hostage or kidnap humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel or to detain them in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm or requirement of concession, any abductee or detainee;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to promote full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and associated personnel, and also requests the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[15] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies[16] and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[4]

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[15] Resolution 22 A (I).
[16] Resolution 179 (II).

20. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission, host country and other related agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen the ongoing efforts of the United Nations to develop a more systematic follow-up process with relevant host Governments on cases of serious crimes and acts of violence resulting in the death or serious injury of United Nations system personnel, in order to bring perpetrators to justice;

22. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to develop and launch an internal registry of victims of violence, designed to provide follow-up with relevant host Governments on cases of serious crimes and acts of violence resulting in the death or serious injury of United Nations personnel;

23. *Calls attention to and reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to respect and, where required, observe the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter;

24. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are aware and respectful of national and local customs and traditions in their countries of assignment and communicate clearly their purpose and objectives to local populations in order to enhance their acceptance, thereby contributing to their safety and security, and in this regard ensure that humanitarian action is guided by humanitarian principles;

25. *Urges* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and the promotion of acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors with a view to enhancing safety and security;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the measures necessary to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with mandatory security risk management measures and relevant codes of conduct and are properly informed about the conditions under which they are called upon to operate and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant national laws and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights law and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in coordination with Member States, to take the measures necessary to ensure that all United Nations premises and assets, including staff residences, are compliant with the United Nations mandatory security risk management measures and other relevant United Nations security standards, and to continue the ongoing assessment of United Nations premises and physical security worldwide;

28. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel receive adequate safety and security training, stresses the

need to continue to improve training so as to enhance cultural awareness and knowledge of relevant law, including international humanitarian law, prior to their deployment to the field, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

29. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide counselling and support services to United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents, and emphasizes the importance of making available stress management, mental health and related services for United Nations personnel throughout the system, and encourages all humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

30. *Further welcomes* the ongoing measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through the United Nations system road safety strategy, so as to reduce incidents caused by road hazards and, in particular, to reduce casualties or injuries resulting from such incidents among United Nations and associated personnel and among the civilian population in the host country, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the collection and analysis of data and to report on road incidents, including civilian casualties resulting from road accidents;

31. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, including the progress and the continuation of the integration of all security personnel of the Secretariat under the leadership of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, and supports the continued implementation of the stay-and-deliver strategy while focusing on effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed in order to enable the United Nations system to deliver the most critical programmes, even in high-risk environments;

32. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue consistent implementation of the programme criticality framework as an operational tool allowing informed decisions on acceptable risk to United Nations personnel, and welcomes the revised programme criticality framework;

33. *Also encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to develop enabling procedures that facilitate the deployment of suitably qualified United Nations security personnel with the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience, with the aim of improving the safety and security measures of the United Nations, in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its programmes, mandates and activities, including humanitarian programmes;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General, inter alia, through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, to continue the increased cooperation and collaboration among United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations, including between their headquarters and field offices, in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security, training and awareness, including field crisis management and gender inclusion in security management, and calls upon all relevant United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations to support those efforts;

35. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to make every effort to support in their public statements a favourable environment for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

36. *Emphasizes* the need to pay particular attention to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, who play an important role, are often at great personal risk, account for

the large majority of casualties and are particularly vulnerable to attacks, including in cases of kidnapping, harassment, banditry and intimidation, requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the relevant United Nations safety and security policy and to enhance the safety and security of locally recruited personnel, while maintaining operational effectiveness, and calls upon the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to ensure that their personnel are adequately consulted on, informed about and trained in the relevant security measures, plans and initiatives of their respective organizations, which should be in line with applicable national laws and international law;

37. *Requests* the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat to further strengthen the security management of the United Nations, focusing on strengthening security risk management policy and tools and their application, increasing situational awareness and analysis capacity, strengthening policy development and promoting best practices, increasing compliance with risk management measures and improving monitoring and evaluation, enhancing surge capacity for emergency response, devising effective physical security measures, developing the expertise of security professionals and strengthening support to the designated officials and the security management teams in the field, and promoting an effective and preventive security management approach that is multidimensional;

38. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretary-General in enhancing security collaboration with host Governments, including efforts to support United Nations designated officials with regard to collaboration with host government authorities on staff safety and security;

39. *Stresses* that the effective functioning at the country level of security operations requires a unified and robust capacity for policy, standards, coordination, communication, compliance and threat and risk assessment and operational and deployment flexibility to ensure that the security workforce reflects the changing dynamics of the security environment, and notes the benefits thereof to United Nations and associated personnel, including those achieved by the Department of Safety and Security since its establishment;

40. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General thus far to strengthen partnerships, and encourages further efforts to enhance coordination, cooperation and information-sharing, at both the headquarters and field levels, between the United Nations and other humanitarian and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field, based on the Saving Lives Together framework as well as other relevant national and local initiatives in this regard, and requests the Secretary-General in this respect to enhance further collaborative initiatives to address the security needs of implementing partners, including through enhanced information-sharing and, where appropriate, security training, invites Member States to consider increasing support to those initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report on steps taken in this regard;

41. *Underlines* the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, through regular and extrabudgetary resources, including through the consolidated appeals process, and encourages all States to contribute to the trust fund for security of staff members of the United Nations system, inter alia, with a view to reinforcing the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security to meet its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes;

42. *Also underlines* the need for better coordination between the United Nations and host Governments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of

international law and national laws, on the use and deployment of essential equipment required to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and associated personnel working in the delivery of humanitarian assistance by United Nations organizations;

43. *Calls upon* States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998,[17] which entered into force on 8 January 2005, and urges them to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and international obligations applicable to them, the use of communications equipment in those and other relief operations, inter alia, by limiting and, whenever possible, expeditiously lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and associated personnel;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the impact of safety and security risks on such personnel, and the development, implementation and outcomes of policies, strategies and initiatives of the United Nations system in the field of safety and security.

70th plenary meeting
11 December 2017

[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.23 and A/72/L.23/Add.1)*]

72/132. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration[1] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2] adopted by the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,

Recognizing that the Sendai Framework applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

Noting with concern that slow-onset disasters such as droughts are on the rise in many places and can have significant impacts on affected populations and lead to increased vulnerability to other hazards,

[1] Resolution 69/283, annex I.
[2] Ibid., annex II.

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Recognizing the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction, and recognizing also the contribution of the regional platforms,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[3] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting with appreciation the hosting by the Government of Morocco of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the first part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016, and noting with appreciation also the convening by the Government of Fiji, with the technical assistance of the Government of Germany, of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Bonn, Germany, from 6 to 17 November 2017,

Noting with appreciation also the hosting by the Government of Mexico of the fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 22 to 26 May 2017, and looking forward to the upcoming sixth session of the Global Platform, to be hosted by Switzerland in Geneva in 2019,

Taking note of its resolution 71/1 of 19 September 2016, in which the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the annexes thereto,

Emphasizing the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles, and emphasizing also in this regard the need for Member States to coordinate with all relevant actors early on in a disaster response so as to ensure the predictable, coherent and needs-based deployment of military assets and personnel supporting humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing also that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing further the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction and management, including through the voluntary implementation of and follow-up to the Sendai Framework, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of disasters, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

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[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Noting the convening of the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in Bangkok on 10 and 11 March 2016, which adopted the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework as a contribution to the Sendai Framework to build resilient health systems,

Recognizing the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, including those that become humanitarian crises, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,[5] highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global challenges, including the impact of climate change, the adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis and volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, and other key factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of populations and exposure to natural hazards and the impact of natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern also that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

Noting with concern that persons with disabilities, older persons, women and children are disproportionately affected in natural disasters,

Acknowledging the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, and early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation, rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations, and that action by humanitarian and development actors in urban areas needs to recognize the complexity of cities and build urban resilience, with improved urban expertise and capacities within organizations, while building on the capabilities, opportunities and potential new partnerships present in cities and other human settlements,

Welcoming the adoption of the outcome document entitled "New Urban Agenda" at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[6] and in this regard noting the commitments therein undertaken by Member States regarding affected populations in urban areas, and noting also the importance of implementing policies to ensure more effective disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management,

Noting that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the

[5] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

[6] Resolution 71/256, annex.

need to support efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Stressing the need for all relevant actors involved in international responses to natural disasters to ensure that such responses are tailored to context, make use of appropriate tools and support local systems, including by building on local expertise and capacities,

Recognizing the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility,

Recognizing also the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect displaced persons,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

Recognizing the importance of sharing and making use of effective practices as part of transboundary cooperation in preparation for cross-border disaster situations, such as simulation exercises or preparedness or evacuation drills,

Recognizing also that scientific advancements can contribute to the effective forecasting of extreme weather events, which allows for a more accurate prediction of such events,

Recognizing further the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission,

Noting the progress of the Global Framework for Climate Services in developing and providing science-based climate information and prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to continued implementation,

Welcoming the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

Recognizing the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

Recognizing also the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars by 2018,

Emphasizing the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

Reaffirming that strengthening resilience contributes to withstanding, adapting to and quickly recovering from disasters,

Reaffirming also the importance of considering increasing investment in building the resilience of communities, which can be the first line of response,

Recognizing the changing scope, scale and complexity of humanitarian crises, including natural disasters, and their adverse impact on efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals,[7] and noting the positive contribution that these efforts can make in strengthening the resilience and preparedness of populations to such disasters and reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters,

Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short-term and medium-term recovery, leading to long-term development, and that certain emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development,

Emphasizing, in this context, the important role of development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders in supporting national efforts to prepare for and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide and, in some instances, displacement, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[2] to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance and development assistance programmes, as appropriate, to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

4. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to increase its support for Member States in their prioritized implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through the revised United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development, in line with the Sendai Framework, to ensure that the implementation of the Sendai Framework most effectively contributes to a risk-informed and integrated approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[7] in particular through building resilience against disasters, reducing displacement risk in the context of disasters and supporting national and local preparedness and response capacities;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant

[7] See resolution 70/1.

[8] A/72/348.

humanitarian and development actors to continue to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including the strengthening of preparedness and mitigation, as well as for responding to disasters;

6. *Encourages* Member States, in line with the call in the Sendai Framework, to promote disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, response and recovery with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and to promoting international cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to provide dedicated financial contributions to disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness, as well as response and recovery efforts, in a harmonized, flexible and complementary approach that fully utilizes and helps to coordinate humanitarian and development funding options and potential;

8. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

9. *Acknowledges* that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of climate and extreme weather events, both of which amplify disaster risk and disaster-induced human mobility, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, to strengthen disaster risk reduction and to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries;

10. *Urges* the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the capacity and resilience of Member States, including through the application of new science and technology and through investments in the context of disasters and climate change;

11. *Encourages* Member States to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from natural disaster-induced displacement, including through national policies and resilience-building, and in this regard encourages Member States, supported by the United Nations, to develop national laws and policies on internal displacement, as appropriate, which address such displacement, detail responsibilities and measures to minimize the impact of disasters, protect and assist internally displaced persons following disasters and identify, promote and support safe, dignified and durable solutions, and in this respect encourages Member States to adopt standards, as appropriate, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[9] the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee[10] and the basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement;[11]

[9] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.
[10] A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.
[11] A/HRC/4/18, annex I.

12. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to integrate the building of resilience and human mobility into relevant strategies, plans and legal frameworks, in particular regarding disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, as integral elements of sustainable development at the national and regional levels so as to help to prevent and mitigate displacement in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, including in urban settings where displaced persons have particular needs, requirements and vulnerabilities, and to enhance cooperation and coordination, where appropriate, to comprehensively respond to such displacement, including by preventing, preparing for and addressing it;

13. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of natural disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced in the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

14. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations, relevant humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to enhance understanding, analysis, monitoring and assessment of the drivers, scale, dynamics, effects, patterns and duration of displacement in the context of slow-onset disasters, gradual environmental degradation and climate change, to strengthen the systematic, impartial and timely collection and sharing of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and to strengthen evidence-based policy and operational responses at all levels in this regard, including to address the root causes of such displacement and strengthen the resilience of displaced persons and their host communities;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, to adopt and implement national laws and regulations, as appropriate, to reduce the impact of the underlying drivers of disaster risk and vulnerability, and to adopt comprehensive rules and procedures for the facilitation and regulation of international disaster assistance, drawing, as appropriate, from the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, and calls upon the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant United Nations organizations and other partners for technical support in achieving these aims;

16. *Welcomes* the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, municipalities, civil society and the private sector, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

17. *Reiterates* the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to assess and reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

18. *Also reiterates* the need to build the capacities of governments to manage and respond to disaster and climate risks, including by providing support for and strengthening national and, as appropriate, local preparedness and response

capacities, and to build resilience, taking into account the differing needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages;

19. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Sendai Framework, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, implemented effectively in a timely manner, including through scaled-up, predictable and multi-year support, such as forecast-based financing, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

20. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support early warning and early action efforts, including through forecast-based financing at the global, regional and national levels, including for multi-hazard early warning systems, climate services, exposure and vulnerability mapping, new technologies and communication protocols, so that persons in vulnerable situations who are exposed to natural hazards, including in geographically remote locations, receive timely, reliable, accurate and actionable early warning information, and encourages the international community to further support national efforts in this regard;

21. *Encourages* Member States to develop or enhance forecast-based preparedness and response systems, including through the establishment and networking of risk management centres, as well as the coordination of existing networks, ensure that comprehensive procedures are in place and make resources available for actions in anticipation of natural disasters, and invites relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other stakeholders to engage in these efforts;

22. *Also encourages* Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat their national platforms for disaster risk reduction in accordance with the Sendai Framework, and encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

23. *Recognizes* the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

24. *Stresses* that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

25. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders to continue to support the localization of disaster preparedness and response and work to ensure that national and local actors are enabled to respond to community-level needs and priorities;

26. *Encourages* Member States and regional organizations to work together to strengthen regional cooperation to improve national and regional capacity to understand and reduce risks and prepare for and respond to disasters in support of national efforts, including by exchanging experiences and best practices;

27. *Encourages* Member States to move from reactive to more proactive risk-based, all-hazards and all-of-society approaches, such as the promotion of ex ante

investments to prevent disaster risks and build resilience, the promotion of environmental and spatial measures and the integration of lessons from past disasters, as well as awareness of new risks, into future planning;

28. *Encourages* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by natural disasters to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce lifesaving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

29. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

30. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to take appropriate measures to reduce and discourage the sending of unsolicited, unneeded or inappropriate relief goods in response to disasters;

31. *Encourages* all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance and the entry of humanitarian personnel and supplies, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

32. *Encourages* Member States to put in place, as appropriate, customs measures to improve effectiveness in responding to natural disasters;

33. *Reaffirms* the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

34. *Welcomes* the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in supporting Member States, upon their request, and the United Nations system in preparedness and humanitarian response, and encourages the continued incorporation into this mechanism of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters;

35. *Also welcomes* the important contribution of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance, and encourages Member States to continue to support the Advisory Group, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002;

36. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters in both rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

37. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders to continue to take concrete action for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda,[6] in order to strengthen resilience to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, and ensure that sustainable development in urban settings is informed by disaster risk, giving special attention to the needs and capacities of persons in vulnerable situations;

38. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations, traditional and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in situations of natural disasters, in order to cooperate effectively in providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

39. *Recognizes* that information and telecommunications technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunications capacities, encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations[12] to consider doing so;

40. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the forecasting, prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

41. *Encourages* Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan for 2018–2019, and reiterates the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries;

42. *Recognizes* the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities, as appropriate, in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk efforts;

43. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its provision of data-related services and policy advice and build the data skills of its humanitarian staff, in order to improve the effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response;

44. *Encourages* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post-disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

45. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance, and taking into account the environmental impact;

46. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for effective humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

47. *Encourages* Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of relevant non-sensitive information with humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations, including through shared platforms and a common approach, in order to inform policy and measures designed to address disaster risks and their consequences, to support preparedness efforts, including forecast-based action and financing, and to improve the effectiveness and accountability of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

48. *Also encourages* Member States, with support from the United Nations upon request, to establish and strengthen national disaster loss databases, risk profiles and available capacities and to continue to collect, share and use such data to inform relevant policies and strategies;

49. *Encourages* Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers, and the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programmes to address them, and in this regard encourages all the relevant stakeholders to support Governments in capacity development, including at the regional and local levels, through the sharing of expertise and tools and the provision of necessary resources, as appropriate, to ensure that effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place in accordance with national priorities for disaster risk management;

50. *Stresses* the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities, including the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker;

51. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to promote women's leadership, empowerment and full and effective participation in the planning and implementation of natural disaster response strategies, including through strengthening partnerships with, and building the capacities of, national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations and civil society actors, as appropriate;

52. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, including with regard to sexual and reproductive health needs and means to address sexual and gender-based violence and various forms of exploitation during emergencies and in post-disaster environments, and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

53. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, recognizes the importance of non-discrimination and their inclusive and active participation in and contribution to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, recognizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple obstacles in accessing humanitarian assistance, and recalls the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action;

54. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and access to quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

55. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

56. *Requests* the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

57. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to support national, subnational and local governments and communities in their responsibility to develop long-term strategies, forecast-based financing and preparedness systems and multi-year operational plans for preparedness that are embedded within disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Sendai Framework;

58. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, and early recovery;

59. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

60. *Encourages* the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery is an important step towards resilience-building and should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established and complementary humanitarian and development instruments;

61. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses;

62. *Urges* Member States, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and coherent approach at the global, regional, national and local levels to El Niño and La Niña phenomena and similar or related events, including by strengthening forecasting, early warning, prevention, preparedness, resilience-building and timely response, supported by effective leadership and predictable, adequate and early funding, when feasible, in regions, countries and communities likely to be affected, and notes the work of the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate and the blueprint for action prepared by them, and the standard operating procedures for El Niño/Southern Oscillation events of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

63. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations to enhance the use of common risk analysis, including the use of the Index for Risk Management, to establish the evidence base for short-, medium- and long-term planning and joint strategies for disaster and climate risk management, capacity development and resilience-building, allowing for greater prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

64. *Encourages* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to work towards a common understanding of underlying risks, clarify roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and establish joint objectives and programmes informed by affected people, data and analysis to strengthen coordination, collaboration and coherence among short-, medium- and long-term activities to progressively reduce needs and vulnerability, build resilience and manage the risk related to climate change and of disasters and development setbacks over multi-year planning cycles, including through integrating risk management into national sustainable development plans and ensuring the connectivity of humanitarian plans with the longer-term sustainable development priorities of Member States, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;[7]

65. *Stresses* the need to strengthen resilience at all levels, and in this regard encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to support efforts, as appropriate, to integrate resilience into humanitarian and development programming, and encourages humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common resilience and risk management objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

66. *Encourages* Member States, international financial institutions and the private sector to mobilize predictable and multi-year support and to work collectively towards common results in order to reduce need, risk and vulnerability, making use of a wide range of financing flows and instruments and partnerships to mobilize additional resources in the field of natural disasters;

67. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, as appropriate, including by prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience and support livelihoods, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, vouchers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

68. *Encourages* the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident

coordinators in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

69. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to identify ways to improve the current financing architecture in order to better provide coherent, predictable and flexible longer-term funding for risk management in multi-year strategies and forecasting, in particular preparedness, on the basis of a global assessment of risk, allowing for better prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

70. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for recovery, preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

71. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

72. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars by 2018, and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

73. *Invites* Member States, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to harness their differentiated skills, capacities and resources, and also to consider voluntary contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms;

74. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters as integral elements of sustainable development and in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[13] and promoting a complementary and coherent approach between these agendas and the Sendai Framework;

75. *Strongly encourages* all relevant actors to work to ensure a comprehensive, coherent, systematic and people-centred approach to managing risks, including through, as appropriate, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement[3] and the New Urban Agenda;

[13] Resolution 69/313, annex.

76. *Takes note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit;[14]

77. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

70th plenary meeting
11 December 2017

[14] A/71/353.

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72/133. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1] and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Expressing grave concern at the increasing challenges caused by the unprecedented number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including protracted displacement, which are increasing in number, scale and severity and are stretching humanitarian response capacities, and expressing deep concern about the impact of climate change, the ongoing consequences of the financial and economic crisis, regional food crises, continuing food and energy insecurity, water scarcity, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, epidemics, natural hazards, environmental degradation, armed conflicts and acts of terrorism, which are adding to underdevelopment, poverty and inequality and are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope with humanitarian crises,

[1] A/72/76-E/2017/58.
[2] A/72/358.

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Underscoring the need, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, to better align, wherever appropriate, humanitarian and development assistance with national development priorities and strategies, and encouraging Member States, as well as the United Nations system and regional organizations in supporting the efforts of Member States, to tackle the root causes of humanitarian crises, including poverty and underdevelopment, build the resilience of affected States, including host communities, and reduce humanitarian needs,

Recognizing that a cooperative and complementary framework between humanitarian and development approaches is imperative to build resilience,

Concerned about the growing gap between the increasing numbers of people in need of assistance and sufficient resources to provide relief, noting the appointment by the Secretary-General, in May 2015, of a High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing to examine ways to raise more humanitarian funding, to make the funding more predictable and to use available funding more effectively, and taking note of the report of the Panel,

Concerned also about the growing gap between humanitarian needs and resources, welcoming non-traditional donors, and emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance, based on and in proportion to assessed risks and needs, with a view to planning for, mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from humanitarian emergencies and to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies,

Recognizing, in this regard, the significant achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in facilitating life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people by providing timely funding, enabling humanitarian organizations and their implementing partners to act quickly when tragedy strikes and steer resources to crises that do not receive the attention that they need and deserve, emphasizing the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund, and welcoming in this regard the call by the Secretary-General to increase the level of the Fund to 1 billion United States dollars by 2018,

Recognizing also the significant achievements of country-based pooled funds in facilitating assistance to people in need, noting the Secretary-General's call for donors to increase the proportion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through country-based pooled funds, and noting also that other pooled funding mechanisms can make important contributions,

Emphasizing that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, in coordination with affected States, including through the use of open and disaggregated data, are crucial elements to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance and integrate a gender perspective into all disaster risk reduction efforts, including by addressing the specific needs, and promoting the priorities and capacities, of women, girls, men and boys in a comprehensive and consistent manner, recognizing that in humanitarian emergencies, women, girls and boys face heightened risks to their safety, health and well-being, and also reiterating that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes, wherever possible, and that the rights of women, girls and boys are respected and protected in such emergencies,

Reiterating also the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to improve accountability at all levels to the

needs of affected populations, and recognizing the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies and face multiple barriers in accessing assistance, recalling the need for the involvement of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes and consultations in humanitarian preparedness and response, and in this regard recalling the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action,

Expressing its deep concern about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a result of the consequences of disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and reaffirming the need for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[3] inter alia, by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including investment, as well as risk financing, at all levels in disaster preparedness and capacity-building, and through disaster-informed policies, programmes and investments and other proactive measures that aim towards preventing new and reducing existing risk in order to reduce humanitarian needs,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[4] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recognizing the primary role of Member States in preparing for and responding to outbreaks of infectious disease, in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005) adopted by the World Health Assembly,[6] including those that become humanitarian crises, highlighting the critical role played by Member States, the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority of international health work, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors in providing financial, technical and in-kind support in order to bring epidemics or pandemics under control, and recognizing also the need to strengthen local and national health systems, early reporting and early warning systems, preparedness, cross-sectoral response capacities, and resilience linked to outbreaks of infectious disease, including through capacity-building for developing countries,

Recognizing also that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to human and economic loss resulting from natural hazards, and recognizing further the need for strengthening international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

Recognizing further that inclusive economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Recognizing, in this respect, that building national and local preparedness and response capacity through, inter alia, appropriate, inclusive and conducive public policies and international assistance, is critical to a more predictable and effective

[3] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[4] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

response and contributes to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

Emphasizing that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 71/128 of 8 December 2016 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,

Emphasizing also the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

Recognizing the high number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the unprecedented number of people who are forcibly displaced, of whom a majority are women and children, owing to conflict, acts of terrorism, persecution, violence and other reasons, and who are often displaced for protracted periods, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs,

Noting the need for increased awareness of the international community regarding the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of the millions living in protracted situations of displacement, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection for internally displaced persons, supporting host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement, finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

Reaffirming the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held on 19 September 2016,[7]

Expressing concern about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizing that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizing the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Noting with great concern that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this,

Recognizing the importance of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[8] which provides a vital legal framework for the

[7] Resolution 71/1.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

protection of civilian persons in time of war, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Strongly condemning all acts of violence, including direct attacks, against humanitarian personnel and facilities, as well as against medical personnel and other humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which in a majority of cases affect locally recruited personnel, noting with concern the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and welcoming efforts such as the Health Care in Danger project of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

Recalling the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations during and after humanitarian situations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts that Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors continue to make to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response based on needs, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, identifying and integrating appropriate innovation into humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery, increasing transparency, reducing duplication, strengthening partnerships with local and national responders as appropriate, enhancing flexible, predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders,

Noting with grave concern that children and youth continue to lack education in situations of complex emergencies, and emphasizing the urgent need for increased financing and more efficient delivery of quality education in humanitarian emergencies, as a contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, and to provide quality education for all, in particular children, in humanitarian emergencies,

Recognizing that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the United Nations system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national Governments,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest

global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the twentieth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2017,[9] and also welcomes the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/14 of 23 June 2017;

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue his efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with all Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Encourages* Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, at the global and field levels, including on policy, in order to foster a more consultative and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the continued efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

6. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more proactively and systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches, including those from large-scale natural disasters and humanitarian crises of a protracted nature, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through facilitating access to information and communications technologies;

[9] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/72/33), chap. X.

7. *Welcomes* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global, regional and field levels, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

9. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations, other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other relevant stakeholders;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the support provided to United Nations resident humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

11. *Calls upon* the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to enhance their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

12. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, ensuring, inter alia, full implementation of the management and accountability system of the Group and the resident coordinator system;

13. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on concrete measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

14. *Also recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need for enhancing the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

15. *Urges* Member States to continue to give priority to efforts to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to improve coordination and strengthen capacity, to ensure that humanitarian relief is provided in a way that mitigates the risk of gender-based violence, and to strengthen

support services for victims, survivors and others affected by such violence beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response, taking into account their unique and specific needs resulting from the impact of such violence, urges all relevant stakeholders to engage for more effective humanitarian relief, and notes the Call to Action initiative;

16. *Underscores* the critical importance of protecting all persons affected by humanitarian crises, in particular women and children, from any form of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, and welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse;

17. *Urges* Member States to continue to seek to prevent, respond to, investigate and prosecute violations and abuses against children in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services for children affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those who have experienced violations and abuses, and calls for a more effective response in that regard, guided by the rights of the child;

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[5] to ensure the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihood and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries, and underlines the importance of tackling the underlying disaster risk drivers, of considering the impact of climate change and of integrating a disaster risk reduction perspective into humanitarian assistance to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk;

19. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and relevant humanitarian and development organizations to continue to support multi-year investment, when possible, in preparedness, response and coordination capacities, and build the capacity at all levels of government, including local government, of organizations and of communities, particularly in communities exposed to disasters, to better prepare for hazards, reduce disaster risk, build resilience and better respond to and recover from and build back better after disasters, and also calls upon all relevant stakeholders to complement, rather than substitute for or displace, national capacities to respond to crises, especially where those crises are prolonged or recurrent;

20. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations humanitarian system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other humanitarian actors to reinforce preparedness and response capabilities in relation to those outbreaks of infectious disease that trigger or exacerbate a humanitarian crisis, including by implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),[6] and calls upon the United Nations humanitarian system and humanitarian organizations to respond rapidly, based on the level 3 activation procedure for infectious disease events in humanitarian contexts, in close coordination with affected States;

21. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to provide adequate, sustainable and timely resources for disaster risk reduction in order to build resilience and reduce the risk of displacement within the context of disasters, including through complementary humanitarian and development programming and by further strengthening national and local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and furthermore encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

22. *Encourages* closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in coordination with Member States, to ensure that all relevant actors work

together, in accordance with their mandates, towards common results with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years, based on shared understanding of the context and each actor's operational strengths, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

23. *Encourages* humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint analysis and multi-year programming and planning cycles;

24. *Encourages* the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and development organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream preparedness, early action and early recovery into their programming, acknowledges that preparedness, early action and early recovery should receive further funding, and in this regard encourages the provision of timely, flexible, predictable and adequate resources, including from both humanitarian and development budgets, as appropriate;

25. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition;

26. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

27. *Expresses concern* about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and health-care services, including psychosocial services, in humanitarian emergencies, and notes with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels, including those that more systematically identify and integrate innovative approaches and share best practices, that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

28. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems, especially early warning systems, for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards, and especially to substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard warning systems;

29. *Welcomes* the growing number of Member States and regional organizations that have taken steps to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages others to do so, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners;

30. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing

timely, effective and predictable assistance, and encourages the United Nations and other relevant organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, under the Common Framework for Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, and expertise to developing countries and through support to enhance the coordination capacities and build capacity in science and technology of affected States;

31. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and to additional pressure on host communities, encourages Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations and actors to further strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of disasters, including those induced by climate change, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

32. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, where appropriate, including through multi-year funding and prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience, such as, but not limited to, cash-based transfers, local procurement of food and services, including for school feeding programmes, and social safety nets;

33. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies more effectively to respond to needs in humanitarian contexts by, inter alia, scaling up social protection policies and cash-based transfer mechanisms, where feasible, including multipurpose cash programming, as appropriate, to support the development of local markets and strengthen national and local capacities, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations humanitarian organizations to continue building their capacity to systematically consider cash-based transfer programming, alongside other forms of humanitarian assistance;

34. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to examine their own financing mechanisms in order to improve, where possible, fast and flexible financing for preparedness, response and early recovery, and in this regard encourages exploring innovative ways, including forecast-based financing and disaster risk insurance mechanisms, to increase the availability of resources;

35. *Takes note* of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, calls upon the United Nations and relevant partners to support capacity-building of Member States, and calls upon Member States to continue to provide funding to humanitarian country-based pooled funds;

36. *Encourages* Member States, and calls upon relevant humanitarian organizations, to work closely with national institutions, including local governments and the private sector, as appropriate, to examine effective, context-specific ways to be better prepared for, respond to and recover from increasing emergencies in urban areas, which may have an impact on the provision of such life-saving essential services as water, energy and health care;

37. *Welcomes* the adoption of the New Urban Agenda by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,[10] and takes note of the commitments undertaken

[10] Resolution 71/256, annex.

therein by Member States regarding persons affected by humanitarian crises in urban areas;

38. *Reaffirms* the right to education for all and the importance of ensuring safe enabling learning environments in humanitarian emergencies, as well as quality education at all levels, including for girls, including technical and vocational training opportunities, where possible, including through adequate funding and infrastructural investments, for the well-being of all, in this regard recognizes that access to quality education in humanitarian emergencies can contribute to long-term development goals and reiterates the need to protect and respect educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law, strongly condemns all attacks directed against schools and the use of schools for military purposes, when in contravention of international humanitarian law, and encourages efforts to promote safe and protective school environments in humanitarian emergencies;

39. *Calls upon* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations organizations to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible, disaggregated and harmonized data, to ensure better assessment and analysis of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response;

40. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the humanitarian programme cycle, including the development of coordinated and comprehensive needs assessment tools, such as multisector initial rapid assessments, the implementation of joint, impartial and timely needs assessments and prioritized needs-based humanitarian response plans, in consultation with the affected States, in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action to meet the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies;

41. *Encourages* Member States to commit and to disburse in a timely fashion humanitarian funding based on, and in accordance with, the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

42. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to explore innovative risk-sharing mechanisms and to base risk management funding on objective data;

43. *Encourages* United Nations and humanitarian organizations to further advance efficiencies in delivering assistance through reducing management costs, harmonizing partnership agreements, providing transparent and comparable cost structures, and strengthening measures to achieve greater accountability by taking further actions to reduce fraud, waste and abuse and identify ways to share incident reports and other information among United Nations agencies, where appropriate;

44. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in all stages of humanitarian response, to take measures to ensure the full participation of women, girls, men and boys, including persons with disabilities and older persons, in all stages of decision-making, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, reduce gender inequalities and ensure that humanitarian assistance is informed, adapted, appropriate and effective, and to take into account the specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, girls, men and boys on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, in the design of needs assessments and the implementation of all programming, including by seeking to ensure the provision of access to the full range of medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, without discrimination, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the collection and

analysis of disaggregated data, in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker;

45. *Recognizes* the important role that women can play as first responders, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian organizations to support women's leadership and participation in the planning and implementation of response strategies, including by strengthening partnerships and building the capacities of national and local institutions, including national and local women's organizations, and other civil society actors, as appropriate;

46. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure non-discrimination and opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in humanitarian preparedness and response;

47. *Calls upon* the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations, in coordination with Member States, to engage all people affected by disasters and crises, in particular those most at risk, including through communication, enabling their participation in relevant processes and supporting their efforts and capacities to meet their different needs, while taking into account, as appropriate, their culture, traditions and local customs;

48. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms and methodologies for improving the quality, transparency, reliability, compatibility and comparability of common humanitarian needs assessments, needs data and analysis, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and taking into account environmental impact, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

49. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, including local governments, relevant local organizations and other actors, as well as affected populations, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed;

50. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to identify better ways of working to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, in order to effectively meet the needs of affected populations, including by harmonizing and, where possible, simplifying reporting requirements, increasing the flexibility of humanitarian funding, including through reduced earmarking and further minimizing the duplication of costs, and making more use of innovation in humanitarian response;

51. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds, including the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds, and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship[11] and to improve burden-sharing among donors, and in this

[11] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

respect encourages the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to those of other sources;

52. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

53. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund in order to achieve an annual funding level of 1 billion United States dollars by 2018 and to continue to reinforce and strengthen the Fund as the global emergency response fund, and emphasizes the need to broaden and diversify the income base of the Fund and that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

54. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector and all relevant individuals and institutions to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to country-based pooled funds and, as appropriate, other pooled funding mechanisms, to facilitate humanitarian assistance to people in need;

55. *Calls upon* Member States that are in a position to do so and development and humanitarian partners, in their efforts to provide flexible resources, to consider ways of better mainstreaming the need for preparedness and building resilience in the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, including reconstruction and rehabilitation, inter alia, with a view to ensuring smooth transition from relief to development;

56. *Calls upon* all Member States that are in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to humanitarian emergencies, including through flexible, unearmarked and multi-year funding where possible, in this context reiterates that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding, and underscores the importance of adequate, timely and flexible voluntary funding for the Office to enable it to carry out its mandate;

57. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, energy and information and communications technologies, where possible, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

58. *Also encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that women and girls have access to basic health-care services, including reliable and safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and psychosocial support, from the onset of emergencies, in this regard recognizes that such assistance protects women, adolescent girls and infants from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant actors to give such programmes due consideration;

59. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

60. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant organizations and actors to recognize and address the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations, and to strengthen coordinated international efforts for their assistance and protection in concert with national authorities;

61. *Calls upon* Member States to take steps to ensure the international protection of and respect for the rights of refugees, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement and adequate standards of treatment in accordance with international law, including, as applicable, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[12] and international human rights obligations;

62. *Recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems as a tool of protection and as a means of carrying out the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, notes the many and diverse challenges faced by refugees who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, and underlines the importance of increasing accountability to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches its beneficiaries;

63. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, encourages States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to enhance the protection of civilians, and invites all States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

64. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

65. *Also urges* Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and in this regard reaffirms the need for States to ensure that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law do not operate with impunity, and urges States to conduct, full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring accountability, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

66. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

67. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

68. *Urges* States, while undertaking counter-terrorism activities, to respect their international obligations, including whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations, as well as recognizes the key role humanitarian organizations play in the provision of principled humanitarian assistance, while also recognizing the importance of preventing and suppressing the financing of and other forms of support to terrorism;

69. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[13] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and that forced displacement is not only a humanitarian but also a development challenge, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons and in particular to address the long-term nature of displacement by adopting and implementing long-term strategies and coherent multi-year planning, including in relation to issues such as livelihoods, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States and encourages humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, including with development organizations, to better address the needs of internally displaced persons in support of Member States to promote durable solutions;

70. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the efforts of the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to "stay and deliver" its most critical programmes even in high-risk environments by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to adapt quickly to changes in local security conditions;

71. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include, as part of their risk management strategy, the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

72. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly, effectively and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order

[13] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex

to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

73. *Takes note* of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit;[14]

74. *Urges* all countries to integrate into their respective national policies and development frameworks the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[15] which includes a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and urges Member States, the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to work together to reduce the needs and build the resilience of the most vulnerable in order to contribute to the achievement of the Goals included in the 2030 Agenda, including the call to leave no one behind;

75. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 session, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

70th plenary meeting
11 December 2017

[14] A/71/353.
[15] Resolution 70/1.

United Nations A/RES/72/134

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 73 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.25 and A/72/L.25/Add.1)*]

72/134. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/126 of 8 December 2016, as well as its previous resolutions on the question,

Recalling also the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[1] and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,

Recalling further all relevant international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4]

Gravely concerned at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip where economic recovery and vast infrastructure repair, rehabilitation and development are urgently needed, especially in the aftermath of the conflict of July and August 2014,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

Welcoming, in this context, the development of projects, notably on infrastructure, to revive the Palestinian economy and improve the living conditions

[1] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

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of the Palestinian people, stressing the need to create the appropriate conditions to facilitate the implementation of these projects, and noting the contribution of partners in the region and of the international community,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all people, in particular women and children, in the whole Middle East region, the promotion of which is facilitated, inter alia, in a stable and secure environment,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact, including the health and psychological consequences, of violence on the present and future well-being of children in the region,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities, and recalling in this regard the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza,

Expressing grave concern about the grave humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, and underlining the importance of emergency and humanitarian assistance and the need for the advancement of reconstruction in the Gaza Strip,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

Underlining the importance of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process,

Recalling the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State, held in Paris on 17 December 2007, the Berlin Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and the Rule of Law, held on 24 June 2008, and the Palestine Investment Conferences, held in Bethlehem from 21 to 23 May 2008 and on 2 and 3 June 2010, and the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Economy for the Reconstruction of Gaza, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 2 March 2009,

Welcoming the ministerial meetings of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, convened in Tokyo in February 2013 and in Jakarta in March 2014, as a forum to mobilize political and economic assistance, including through exchanges of expertise and lessons learned, in support of Palestinian development,

Welcoming also the latest meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, held in Brussels on 27 May 2015 and in New York on 25 September 2013, 22 September 2014, 30 September 2015, 19 September 2016 and 18 September 2017,

Welcoming further the activities of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2011–2013 on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure and the adoption of the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014–2016: State-building to Sovereignty, and stressing the need for continued international support for the Palestinian State-building process, as outlined in the summary by the Chair of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held on 22 September 2014,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people,

Recognizing, in this regard, the positive contribution of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014–2016, which is aimed, inter alia, at enhancing developmental support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Welcoming steps to ease the restrictions on movement and access in the West Bank, while stressing the need for further steps to be taken in this regard, and recognizing that such steps would improve living conditions and the situation on the ground and could promote further Palestinian economic development,

Welcoming also the tripartite agreement facilitated by the United Nations regarding access to the Gaza Strip, and calling for its full implementation and complementary measures that address the need for a fundamental change in policy that allows for the sustained and regular opening of the border crossings for the movement of persons and goods, including for humanitarian and commercial flows and for the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza,

Stressing that the situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable and that a durable ceasefire agreement must lead to a fundamental improvement in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and ensure the safety and well-being of civilians on both sides,

Stressing also the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza through the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009, including by preventing the illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition and by ensuring the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of existing agreements, including the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access between the Palestinian Authority and Israel,

Stressing, in this regard, the importance of the effective exercise by the Palestinian Authority of its full government responsibilities in the Gaza Strip in all fields, including through its presence at the Gaza crossing points,

Noting the active participation of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority in the activities of the Special Envoys of the Quartet,

Reaffirming the necessity of achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects, on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 1860 (2009), as well as the terms of reference of the Madrid Conference and the principle of land for peace, in order to ensure a political solution, with two States – Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable Palestinian State – living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[5]

Expressing grave concern about continuing violence against civilians,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and ongoing efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people, including with regard to the emergency humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

6. *Welcomes* the meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians of 25 September 2013, 22 September 2014, 27 May and 30 September 2015, 19 September 2016 and 18 September 2017, the outcome of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014, and the generous donor response to support the needs of the Palestinian people, and urges the rapid disbursement of donor pledges;

7. *Stresses* the importance of following up on the results of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza to effectively promote economic recovery and reconstruction in a timely and sustainable manner;

8. *Calls upon* donors that have not yet converted their budget support pledges into disbursements to transfer funds as soon as possible, encourages all donors to increase their direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority in accordance with its government programme in order to enable it to build a viable and prosperous Palestinian State, underlines the need for equitable burden sharing by donors in this effort, and encourages donors to consider aligning funding cycles with the Palestinian Authority's national budget cycle;

9. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and recognizes the vital role of the Agency in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the difficult humanitarian situation

[5] A/72/87-E/2017/67.

being faced by Palestinian women, children and their families and to help in the reconstruction and development of relevant Palestinian institutions;

12. *Stresses* the role that all funding instruments, including the European Commission's Palestinian-European Mechanism for the Management of Socioeconomic Aid and the World Bank trust fund, have been playing in directly assisting the Palestinian people;

13. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

14. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

15. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of ensuring free humanitarian access to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

16. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of existing agreements, including the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population, as well as for imports and exports, within and into and out of the Gaza Strip;

17. *Further stresses* the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, premises, facilities, equipment, vehicles and supplies, as well as the need to ensure safe and unhindered access by humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations;

18. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend to the Palestinian people, as rapidly as possible, emergency economic assistance and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to counter the impact of the current crisis;

19. *Stresses* the need for the continued implementation of the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[6] including with regard to the full, prompt and regular transfer of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and

[6] A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex.

disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

70th plenary meeting
11 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/135

General Assembly

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Agenda item 3 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/601)*]

72/135. Credentials of representatives to the seventy-second session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee[1] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.[1]

71st plenary meeting
11 December 2017

[1] A/72/601.

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United Nations A/RES/72/136

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.29 and A/72/L.29/Add.1)*]

72/136. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 71/249 of 22 December 2016 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 67/104 of 17 December 2012, it proclaimed the period 2013–2022 the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures and invited the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in this context to be the lead agency in the United Nations system,

Encouraging, in this regard, activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recalling its resolution 69/312 of 6 July 2015 on the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in which it reaffirmed its support for the Alliance and reiterated the valuable role of the Alliance in promoting greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs,

Recalling also its resolution 70/109 of 10 December 2015 on a world against violence and violent extremism and its resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

17-22363 (E) 180118

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Recalling further its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, by which it declared 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and expressed its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Noting also the growing importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in the context of the global phenomenon of migration, which increases interaction among persons and communities from various traditions, cultures and religions,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Convinced that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

Noting the Unite for Heritage campaign launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in March 2015, which aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Bearing in mind that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] and acknowledging that the Agenda includes the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,

Welcoming also the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation, and for strengthening people-to-people bonds, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated, such as the African Initiative on Education for Peace and Development through Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, launched in Cotonou, Benin, in May 2015, the fifth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Astana in June 2015, and the second World Nomad Games, held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, in September 2016, all of which contribute to promoting social cohesion, peace and development,

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[2] Resolution 70/1.

Welcoming further the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna,

Noting the declaration of the Forum on the Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Incitement that could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, held in Fez, Morocco, on 23 and 24 April 2015, and further efforts that build on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence[3] and the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the basis of Religion or Belief,

Welcoming the Declaration on Promoting Cultural Pluralism and Peace through Interfaith and Inter-ethnic Dialogue, endorsed by the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 14 to 18 October 2017,

Referring to the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, organized biennially by Azerbaijan in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as a key global platform for promoting intercultural dialogue,[4]

Acknowledging the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

Underlining the importance of education, including education on culture, peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and human rights, in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity, and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to promoting peoples' understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge prejudices, improve mutual understanding and foster cooperation,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue among religions, groups and individuals, in particular religious leaders, can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization conference on the theme "Internet and the radicalization of youth: preventing, acting and living together", held in Quebec City, Canada, from 30 October to 1 November 2016,

Noting also the Appeal for Peace, signed by religious leaders during the World Day of Prayer for Peace, held in Assisi, Italy, on 20 September 2016,

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[3] A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix.

[4] See A/72/488, para. 40.

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;[5]

3. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of internationally agreed development goals;

4. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

5. *Further recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

6. *Encourages* Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to consider carrying out activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022), adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[6] which provides a framework for enhancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance and mutual understanding, while placing emphasis on the involvement of women and youth in such dialogue;

7. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

8. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

9. *Welcomes* the declarations adopted by the Global Forums of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and invites relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs;

10. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to work together in order to build a more secure, inclusive and peaceful world;

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[5] A/72/488.

[6] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Executive Board decision 194 EX/10.

11. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these can be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, and protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

12. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Interfaith Dialogue ePortal established following the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in 2010, as well as the Peace and Dialogue ePortal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue ePortal and to the Peace and Dialogue ePortal;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York in October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions, as well as the ideas suggested during the third High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, held in Paris in November 2012;

14. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based and cultural organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

15. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

16. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

17. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting
11 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/137

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.30 and A/72/L.30/Add.1)*]

72/137. Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 1999, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012, 68/125 of 18 December 2013, 69/139 of 15 December 2014, 70/20 of 3 December 2015 and 71/252 of 23 December 2016, adopted under its agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

[1] Resolution 53/243 A.
[2] Resolution 53/243 B.

Please recycle

Recalling also its resolutions 70/109 of 10 December 2015 on a world against violence and violent extremism and 70/291 of 1 July 2016 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, and noting the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism under resolution 71/291 of 15 June 2017,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling its resolution 70/262 on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,[4]

Welcoming the observance of 10 December as Human Rights Day,[5] 9 December as the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime[6] and 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence,[7] as proclaimed by the United Nations,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, mediation, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to a culture of peace,

Recognizing also that efforts towards peacebuilding and sustaining peace need to take into account the promotion of a culture of peace,

Recognizing further the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing dialogue and negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[8] which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace as well as interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 71/249 of 22 December 2016 and 71/252,

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

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[3] Resolution 55/2.
[4] Resolution 60/1.
[5] Resolution 423 (V).
[6] Resolution 69/323.
[7] Resolution 61/271.

Welcoming the efforts of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations, in particular through various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector,

Taking note of the meeting of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2017 at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of international organizations, on the theme "Youth engagement: the nexus to building inclusive societies and sustaining peace", and highlighting the role of youth in its programmes and policy work advancing the culture of peace,

Welcoming the successful holding on 7 September 2017 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, and noting the focus, relevance and importance of early childhood development in promoting a culture of peace,

Recognizing the role of women and youth, as well as the contribution of children, in advancing a culture of peace, and in particular the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Noting the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing a culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[2] is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the promotion of a culture of peace in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[3]

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

4. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, in particular the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Underlines* that early childhood development contributes to the development of more peaceful societies through advancing equality, tolerance, human development and promoting human rights, and calls for investment in early childhood education, including through effective policies and practices, towards promoting a culture of peace;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to increase its activities that focus on peace education and global citizenship education in order to enhance an understanding among young people of values such as peace, tolerance, openness, inclusion and mutual respect, which are essential in developing a culture of peace;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

10. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education in children's schools that builds a culture of peace, including lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active and global citizenship and human rights;

11. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

12. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

13. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

14. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with its resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001, and of the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October, in accordance with its resolution 61/271 of 15 June 2007;

15. *Reiterates its request* to the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary

of its adoption, on or around 13 September, and requests the Secretariat to support its effective organization within their respective mandates and existing resources;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report, within existing resources, on actions taken by Member States, on the basis of information provided by them, and those taken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

71st plenary meeting
11 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/138

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 127

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.27 and A/72/L.27/Add.1)*]

72/138. International Universal Health Coverage Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/81 of 12 December 2012 on global health and foreign policy, which recognized the importance of universal coverage in national health systems and recommended that consideration be given to including universal health coverage in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda in the context of global health challenges,

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and its aspirational and global targets, which include achieving the target of universal health coverage by 2030, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all,

Recalling further its resolution 71/159 of 15 December 2016 on global health and foreign policy, which underlined the primary responsibility of Member States to accelerate their transition towards achieving universal health coverage and recognized that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day;

Please recycle

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other global, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and individuals, to observe International Universal Health Coverage Day annually in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, through education and activities, in order to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States in order to encourage them to observe and carry out activities to commemorate, on a voluntary basis, International Universal Health Coverage Day.

72nd plenary meeting
12 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/139

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 127

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.28 and A/72/L.28/Add.1)*]

72/139. Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 63/33 of 26 November 2008, 64/108 of 10 December 2009, 65/95 of 9 December 2010, 66/115 of 12 December 2011, 67/81 of 12 December 2012, 68/98 of 11 December 2013, 69/132 of 11 December 2014, 70/183 of 17 December 2015 and 71/159 of 15 December 2016,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Please recycle

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] international humanitarian law, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and the Constitution of the World Health Organization,[3]

Reaffirming the commitment to fully and effectively implement the Beijing Platform for Action,[4] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[5] and the outcomes of their review conferences, including the commitments relating to sexual and reproductive health and the promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention,

Underscoring the fact that global health is also a long-term objective which is national, regional and international in scope and requires sustained attention, commitment and closer international cooperation, beyond emergencies,

Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, with particular attention to the alarming situation of millions of people for whom access to health-care services and medicines remains a distant goal, in particular vulnerable populations and destitute people,

Underlining that health is not just an end in itself, but is a means of reaching other targets under the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and noting that investments in health contribute to sustainable, inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and to reducing inequality, and also acknowledging the reciprocal benefits between the attainment of the health Goal and the achievement of all other Goals,

Recognizing the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first, founded on the dignity of the human person and reflecting the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as to empower those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations and address their physical and mental health needs which are reflected in the Agenda, including all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants,

Affirming the primary responsibility of Member States to determine and promote their own path towards achieving universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and quality, essential, affordable and effective medicines for all, with particular attention to those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, and that is critical to promote physical and mental health and well-being, especially through primary health care, health services and social

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 14, No. 221.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

protection mechanisms, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community,

Recognizing the importance of giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to access, without any discrimination, all social and health services, and an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Underscoring the need for far-reaching partnerships for global health to support the promotion of, inter alia, gender equality and women's empowerment and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights, so as to contribute to the eradication of poverty and to economic and social development, including improved health outcomes,

Recognizing that women and girls play a vital role as agents of development, and acknowledging that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing also the essential contribution that older persons can continue to make to the functioning of societies and towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda if adequate guarantees are in place, and concerned that many health systems are not sufficiently prepared to respond to the needs of the rapidly ageing population, including the need for promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care,

Recognizing further the positive contributions made by migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and reaffirming the right of all refugees and migrants to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Recognizing the special needs of people living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies, and expressing concern that the most vulnerable in areas affected by conflicts often have no or limited access to health services, and, moreover, that attacks against medical personnel and facilities have immediate and long-term consequences for health-care systems,

Underlining the urgency of having strong and resilient health systems, reaching those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, and capable of effectively implementing the International Health Regulations (2005),[6] ensuring pandemic preparedness and the prevention and detection of and response to any outbreaks,

Recognizing the challenge of antimicrobial resistance, which requires multisectoral actions, and the importance of the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance,[7] including the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by Member States by the seventy-third session of the Assembly,

Underscoring the importance of motivated, well-trained and appropriately equipped health professionals and health workers in decent jobs, to build a sustained and resilient health system and contribute towards the achievement of sustainable universal health coverage and the protection of health workers during emergencies,

Recalling the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health, adopted at the 2011 World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, which reaffirmed that health inequities within and between countries are politically, socially and economically unacceptable, as well as unfair and largely avoidable, and noting

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[6] World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

[7] Resolution 71/3.

that many of the underlying determinants of health and risk factors of communicable and non-communicable diseases are associated with social and economic conditions,

Recognizing that coordinated health, social and economic policies are needed to address the health of the most vulnerable and marginalized, who are often victims of inequity, inequality, discrimination, stigmatization, social exclusion and violence, and are the most exposed to health risk factors, owing mostly to their living conditions, poor health literacy and lack of access to health care and other relevant services,

Acknowledging that the promotion of health equity and the elimination of stigma and discrimination in health-care settings are important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a more inclusive society whereby those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls, persons with disabilities, persons living with mental health conditions or psychological disabilities, and those living with, at risk of or affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as tuberculosis, cholera and other diseases, will have a better quality of life and well-being, and in this regard taking note of the joint United Nations statement on ending discrimination in health-care settings,

Noting the significant role of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative in promoting synergy between foreign policy and global health, as well as the contribution of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration of 20 March 2007, entitled "Global health: a pressing foreign policy issue of our time",[8] which was reaffirmed, with renewed actions and commitments, in the ministerial communiqué of the Initiative, entitled "Renewing 10 years of concerted efforts and preparing for new challenges", of 22 September 2017,[9]

Recognizing the need to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, which engages all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors, to mobilize all necessary financial and non-financial means to collaboratively support the efforts of Member States to achieve health-related Sustainable Development Goals, including addressing the health needs of those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, and underscoring the importance of enhanced international cooperation and assistance to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, implement universal access to health services and address health challenges, while taking into account different national circumstances and capacities and respecting national policies and priorities,

Emphasizing the importance of seeking synergies and collaboration with other relevant actors within and outside the United Nations system, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Drug Purchase Facility, the Gavi Alliance, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the Global Financing Facility in support of Every Woman, Every Child, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, the World Bank, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to address the health needs of the most vulnerable,

Underlining the importance of developing efficient and innovative approaches, including through the private sector, to address the health needs of the most vulnerable and to achieve universal health coverage, such as integrated community-based and people-centred health services, health investment incentives and public-private partnerships to increase health financing and develop and train the health workforce, and strengthening health capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks,

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[8] A/63/591, annex.

[9] A/72/559, annex.

Reaffirming the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), which provides flexibilities for the protection of public health and promotes access to medicines for all, in particular for developing countries, and the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property protection is important for the development of new medicines and also recognizes the concerns about its effects on prices,

Recognizing that rapidly changing technologies, particularly digital technologies, have the potential to enhance people's access to health services, improve the responsiveness of the health system to the needs of individuals and communities and increase the quality and efficiency of health services,

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases[10] and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[11] and looking forward to the high-level meeting of the Assembly on non-communicable diseases to be held in 2018,

Emphasizing that the United Nations system has an important responsibility to assist Member States in the follow-up to and full implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, especially those focusing on health-related areas,

Emphasizing also the primary role of the World Health Organization, as the United Nations specialized agency for health and the lead agency to support the implementation of the International Health Regulations, in fostering coordination of global health interventions to strengthen health systems and build the capacities of its member States in achieving better health outcomes, including through public health measures, health protection, including the international response to outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, and health promotion, and addressing social, economic, behavioural and environmental determinants of health, to promote physical and mental health and well-being for all at all ages, with special attention to improving the health of the most vulnerable,

1. *Welcomes* the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the operationalization of the immediate actions and five-year action plan of the High-level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth and on global health and foreign policy, [12] and the adoption by the World Health Assembly on 29 May 2017, at its seventieth session, of the five-year action plan for health employment and inclusive economic growth (2017–2021);[13]

2. *Reiterates* the call for more attention to health, which is a state of complete, physical, mental and social well-being, as an important cross-cutting policy issue on the international agenda, as it is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development, and for recognition that global health challenges require policy coherence across government and concerted, sustained and intersectoral efforts;

3. *Urges* Member States to respect, protect and promote the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with

[10] Resolution 66/2, annex.
[11] Resolution 68/300.
[12] A/72/378.
[13] World Health Organization, document WHA70/2017/REC/1, annex 2.

particular attention given to the health needs of the most vulnerable, and to consider health in a holistic manner, including in the formulation of foreign policy;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Global Health Crises Task Force, concluded in July 2017, to support and monitor the implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises [14] and the level 3 activation procedures for infectious disease events, for humanitarian actors in large-scale infectious disease events in humanitarian contexts, endorsed in December 2016, and requests the Secretary-General to provide periodic updates on the recommendations of the Global Health Crises Task Force, in close consultation with the Director General of the World Health Organization, with a special focus on preparedness for and the prevention of health crises;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to urgently and effectively assist countries affected by the cholera epidemic in the strengthening of their national health, water and sanitation systems in order to eliminate cholera;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

7. *Encourages* Member States to promote the effective, full and meaningful participation of all, in particular those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of law, policies and programmes relevant to realizing the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to implementing the health-related Sustainable Development Goals, including strategies for universal health coverage;

8. *Calls upon* the international community and global health partners, as well as regional and national stakeholders, to support Member States in carrying out their primary responsibilities to accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage, and tackle social, economic and environmental determinants of health, as well as demographic challenges, including population ageing, provide social protection and adopt integrated, people-centred, community-based and gender-responsive health services based on human rights, which will help to empower those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, enhance health equity and equality, end discrimination and create a more inclusive society;

9. *Notes* that challenges in global health still remain and demand persistent attention and that this urgently requires the fulfilment of commitments to strengthen the global partnership for development, and emphasizes in particular in this regard North-South cooperation, the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the exchange of best practices, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to address health inequities in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, in line with national priorities;

10. *Encourages* Member States to secure sustainable financing for health research and development on emerging and re-emerging diseases, neglected tropical diseases, non-communicable diseases, including cancers and mental health, and antimicrobials, promote safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, including antimicrobials and traditional medicines, and vaccines, enhance access to health

[14] A/70/723.

products, therapies and medical devices, and promote preventive and treatment interventions and diagnostics for all those in need, in particular for the most vulnerable;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to promote and strengthen, as appropriate, their dialogue with other stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in order to maximize their engagement in and contribution to the implementation of health goals and targets through an intersectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, while at the same time safeguarding public health interests from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflict of interest, through the management of risk, the strengthening of due diligence and accountability, the promotion of policy coherence and an increase in the transparency of engagement;

12. *Encourages* the development of innovative and sustainable mechanisms to ensure necessary and sustained health financing and enhance international coordination and an enabling environment at all levels to strengthen health systems, and promote universal access to quality health services, including through partnerships with civil society and the private sector;

13. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders to scale up efforts on an urgent basis to achieve the goals of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS 2016–2021 Strategy and the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030[15] as an important prerequisite and enabler for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while recognizing the critical importance of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in actively contributing to and engaging in the follow-up and review process with respect to progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[16]

14. *Urges* Member States to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[5] and the Beijing Platform for Action[4] and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the framework of priorities and guiding principles to promote the health of refugees and migrants prepared by the World Health Organization, and invites all Member States, in accordance with their national contexts, priorities and legal frameworks, to take into account the crucial importance of addressing the physical and mental health needs of refugees, migrants and their families in the development of a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration;

16. *Urges* Member States to develop, implement and evaluate policies and programmes that promote healthy and active ageing and the highest attainable standard of health and well-being for older persons, and to develop health care for older persons as part of primary care in the existing national health systems;

17. *Calls upon* all Member States to tackle health inequities and inequalities within and across countries through political commitment and national policies that address social, economic and environmental determinants of health, including through health promotion, disease prevention and health care, and promoting availability of and access to goods and services essential to health and well-being;

[15] Resolution 70/266, annex.

[16] Resolution 70/1.

18. *Reiterates* the call upon Member States to make greater investments in and promote decent work with adequate remuneration in the health and social sectors, enable safe working environments and conditions, effective retention and equitable and broad distribution of the health workforce, and strengthen capacities to optimize the existing health workforce, including by expanding rural and community-based health education and training and strengthening health professional education in both the institutional and instructional dimensions, to create a more effective and socially accountable health workforce;

19. *Urges* Member States to reinforce the protection of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, especially in armed conflict, consistent with their specific obligations under international humanitarian law, recognizing the need to enhance the protection of medical missions in order to support the restoration and provision of essential health-care services to ensure that physical and mental health needs are met for civilians affected by conflict, in particular for women and children;

20. *Encourages* greater coherence and coordination among United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and entities on matters related to global health and foreign policy, including through the consideration, where appropriate, of related actions;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, development partners and other relevant initiatives, such as the International Health Partnership for UHC2030, to provide support to Member States, especially through technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, for the development and strengthening of the sustainability of universal health coverage at the national level with the aim of promoting access to health services for the most vulnerable;

22. *Welcomes* the convening of the World Health Organization First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response, held in Moscow on 16 and 17 November 2017, and takes note with appreciation of its outcome, which forms part of the way towards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on tuberculosis to be held in 2018;

23. *Also welcomes* the convening of the World Health Organization Global Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases: Enhancing Policy Coherence between Different Spheres of Policymaking That Have a Bearing on Attaining Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.4 on Non-Communicable Diseases by 2030, held in Montevideo from 18 to 20 October 2017, as part of the preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

24. *Decides* to hold a high-level meeting in 2019 on universal health coverage, and requests the President of the General Assembly, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization and in consultation with Member States, to propose options and modalities for the conduct of such a meeting, with a view to ensuring the most effective and efficient outcomes, including potential deliverables, complementing and building on existing efforts in this regard, before the end of the seventy-second session;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization as well as other relevant international organizations, to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Global health and foreign policy", on improving international

coordination and cooperation to address the health needs of the most vulnerable for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

72nd plenary meeting
12 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/140

General Assembly

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Agenda item 27

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/431)*]

72/140. Persons with albinism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[7]

Recalling resolution 70/229 of 23 December 2015, its previous resolution on persons with albinism,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 23/13 of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism,[8] 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism[9] and 28/6 of 26 March 2015,[10] by which the Council established the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[4] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[10] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. III, sect. A.

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Recalling further its resolution 69/170 of 18 December 2014, by which the General Assembly decided to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day, with effect from 2015,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on social development challenges faced by persons with albinism[11] and the recommendations contained therein,

Taking note also of the report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,[12]

Taking note further of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolutions 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism and 373 of 22 May 2017 on the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021),

Expressing concern at all attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children,

Welcoming the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism and public campaigns to raise awareness,

Expressing concern that persons with albinism are disproportionately affected by poverty, owing to the discrimination and marginalization they face, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for resources to develop and implement programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

Expressing concern also that women and girls with albinism may face multiple forms of discrimination, and a higher risk of sexual abuse, especially in communities where they are believed to have the power to cure HIV and AIDS, including being targets of witchcraft-related attacks,

Recognizing the need to address the root causes of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly the interrelated factors, including the mythologization of albinism and the related lack of understanding of the scientific bases of the condition, poverty, discrimination and economic and social marginalization, witchcraft practices and other aggravating factors, which contribute to the ongoing outbreaks of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly on the African continent,

Recognizing also that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[13] will contribute, inter alia, to the promotion of social inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with albinism,

Expressing concern at the absence of disaggregated data on the status of persons with albinism,

Recognizing that access to full and productive employment and decent work is an important aspect of participation in social and economic life,

Reaffirming the need for the participation of persons with albinism in development efforts at the national, regional and international levels, and in this

[11] A/72/169.
[12] A/HRC/24/57.
[13] Resolution 70/1.

regard stressing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons with albinism,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the human rights of all persons, including persons with albinism, including the rights to life, liberty, security of person, education, work, an adequate standard of living and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt, if necessary, national action plans and legislation, as appropriate, on the rights of persons with albinism, in conformity with their international human rights obligations and commitments, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[3]

3. *Also encourages* Member States to address the root causes of discrimination and violence against persons with albinism, including through awareness-raising campaigns, the dissemination of accurate information on albinism and other measures, such as the integration of albinism into education curricula, as appropriate;

4. *Further encourages* Member States to end impunity for violence against persons with albinism, including sexual and gender-based violence, by amending laws, where applicable, and by bringing perpetrators to justice;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to work to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that victims and family members have access to appropriate remedies;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in support of measures to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with albinism, including strengthening the capacity of their health-care systems to provide affordable dermatological and ophthalmological services;

7. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, compile and disseminate disaggregated data on persons with albinism, where applicable, to identify patterns of discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of their status;

8. *Encourages* Member States to develop, if necessary, policies and measures to address the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, who may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their participation in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life;

9. *Urges* Member States to implement, if necessary, national measures to ensure that persons with albinism are not left behind, recognizing that persons with albinism are often disproportionally affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and to commit to working towards the social integration of persons with albinism;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Social development", on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member

States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and encourages the Secretary-General to collect information from Member States and all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the report;

11. *Decides*, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons with albinism, to consider the issue of persons with albinism at its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Social development".

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017